

Criminals At Large

By NEWGATE CALLENDAR

THE ROPE-DANCER by Victor Marchetti (Grosset & Dunlap, \$6.95) is all about the C.I.A. (called N.I.A. in the book). Marchetti worked in the Central Intelligence Agency for 14 years, serving the high brass and himself achieving high rank there. Naturally, he is not going to give away any secrets. (Guys go to jail for that.) Instead he has written a book that explores the mind of a spy.

Why does an American in high place suddenly go over to the Russians? In the process of this psychological exegesis, there is a good deal about the administrative workings of the Agency. There also are some remarks about the White House and the cute games a certain President with a Texas accent plays. (The author has no admiration for this President.) The story-line is rather far-fetched. Marchetti is not a

very good writer, and he fails to make a convincing case for his protagonist. When it's all over, the reader will not learn much about the Agency that he had not previously known.